

Appl. No. 09/872,715
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Reply to Office Action of December 23, 2003

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph 1 of page 8 and make the changes indicated.

The programming processes outlined in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 may be implemented in the setup 300 of a STB in a STB and its corresponding remote control as shown in FIG. 3 according to the present invention. An example remote control 310 and a set top box 320 communicate with one another through a link established at 370. Typically, such a link is an infrared interface.

However, other interfaces may include radio transmission or wired connection. The remote control 310 commands the set top box 320. Additionally, the set top box 320 may have a connection 380 to the outside world via the Internet 330. The connection 380 may be through a cable television provider or Internet service provider (ISP). Within the set top box 320 is a lookup table 340 that stores the user desired state 110 (or a vendor desired state 210) by using the remote to command the STB 320 to store the desired state 120. In the example remote 310, a key 350 and a key 360 are programmable to store URL1 and URL2, respectively. A vendor may gain access to the STB via the Internet 330 and the STB's connection 380. The lookup table 340 stores the URL 1 and URL 2 commands. These commands correspond to the actions enumerated. For example, URL 1 is first web address and URL 2 is second web address.

Although the example remote control depicted here has two URL buttons, such a remote may have any number of such buttons. Note that these URLs may refer to a filename in local or network storage. For example, the user may gain access to a locally stored document within the STB's memory storage. Other commands and actions in the lookup table may refer to particular entertainment channels as found on a cable television network (CATV), for example.

In the Abstract, please make the changes as indicated.

A remote control has a button to gain access to a URL on the Internet. In an example embodiment, a remote control apparatus comprises a user-interface programmable to retrieve content from the Internet. In a particular example embodiment, application, the remote control is part would be part of a system comprising a STB box connected to a network. The remote control is coupled to the STB, wherein the STB stores the pre-determined URL. The user may retrieve the pre-determined URL by actuating a shortcut key on the remote. This URL may be programmed by the user or by a third party in response to a user profile.